

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 19th January 2022

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (T Pickstone in the Chair);
Councillors R Brown, R Bernstein, C Boles, C Birchmore, N Boroda, P Cropper, LJ Dean, U Farooq, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, T Holt, K Hussain, N Jones, J Lancaster, J Lewis, K Leach, L McBriar, G McGill, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, M Powell, T Rafiq, J Rydeheard, A Simpson, L Smith, M Smith, G Staple-Jones, T Tariq, C Tegolo, D Vernon, S Walmsley, S Wright and Y Wright

Apologies: Councillor Mortenson, Butler, Walsh, Thomas, Hurst, Whitby, Mason

Public attendance: 7 Members of the public were in attendance.

C.XXX DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in relation to items on the agenda:

1. Councillor A Quinn declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as both his son and daughter-in law, work for the NHS, he is a member of the Trade Union, Unite and the Downs Syndrome Association.
2. Councillor D Quinn declared an interest in all matters under consideration as an employee of the Citizens Advice Bureau and both her son and daughter-in law, work for the NHS
3. Councillor T Pilkington declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an employee of the Manchester Foundation Trust.
4. Councillor A Simpson declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as both her and her son are employed by the NHS.
5. Councillor S. Wright declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as his wife works for a school in the Borough.
6. Councillor Rydeheard declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda as he undertakes work representing the Taxi trade.
7. Councillor Peel expressed an interest in all matters under consideration as a Trustee of Bolton and Bury Citizens Advice Bureau.
8. Councillor LJ Dean declared a personal interest as a family member works for Six Town Housing Association and his a school governor.
9. Councillors Lancaster, Brown and Rafiq declared personal interest in the Liberal Democrat Notice of Motion as private landlords.
10. Councillor J Lewis declared a personal interest in the Labour Notice of Motion as a Council Appointed to the CAB Board.
11. Councillors Farooq, Vernon, Leach and Pilkington declared personal interests in all items under consideration as employees of the NHS.
12. Councillor McGill declared a personal interest in the Conservative NOM as his wife is an Officer of the NAU Trade Union.
13. Councillor Grimshaw declared a personal interest in the Labour NOM as her daughter is employed by the CAB.

14. Councillor Boles declared a personal interest in the Conservative NOM as a teacher employed in the Borough.

C.XXX MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24th November 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C.XXX MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported the sad news of the death Wilf Oldham MBE and asked that his condolences be passed on to his family.

The Mayor congratulated residents Maxine Grimshaw and Rochelle Gardner who both received New Years Honours.

C.XXX PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of 5 questions. The Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Ian Astley (not present)	Waste Management	Cllr O'Brien
Carol Bernstein	Ofsted	Cllr Tariq
Anton Slawycz	Ofsted	Cllr Tariq
Andrew Luxton	Clean Air	Cllr Quinn
April Fenton	Clean Air	Cllr Quinn

C.XXX RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of Cabinet 12th January 2022 Appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

It was moved by Councillor Taiq and seconded by Councillor Hussain and it was:

RESOLVED:

That Council appoint Councillor Shaheena Haroon as Mayor for the Civic year 2022/23.

It was moved by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor L Smith and it was:

RESOLVED:

That Council appoint Councillor Sandra Walmsley as Deputy Mayor for the Civic year 2022/23.

Meeting of Audit Committee – 12th January 2022 External Audit Procurement

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Tariq it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Council accepts the PSAA invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal Local Government and Police Bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023.

C.XXX LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Gold it was:

RESOLVED:

That:

- the scheme continues in its current form for the year 2022/23
- the current disregard of all War Widow's/Widower's Pension or War Disablement Pension is continued
- the performance of the scheme continues to be closely monitored and will be reviewed and amended as appropriate on an annual basis.

C.XXX LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written question (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E O'Brien, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting.

The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1. Cllr Hayes	Cllr O'Brien	Universal Credit
2. Cllr Hayes	Cllr Gold	Participatory Budgets
3. Cllr Bernstein	Cllr Tariq	Corporate Performance
4. Cllr Grimshaw	Cllr Rafiq	Real Living Wage
5. Cllr Farooq	Cllr Morris	Women's safety
6. Cllr Y Wright	Cllr Tariq	Social workers
7. Cllr S Wright	Cllr O'Brien	Istanbul Restaurant,

		Prestwich
8. Cllr Boles	Cllr Tariq	Children returning to school and Covid
9. Cllr D Quinn	Cllr Gold	Holocaust Memorial Day
10. Cllr Brown	Cllr Tariq	Ofsted
11. Cllr McGill	Cllr Simpson	Raise in the number in hospitalisations
12. Cllr Pilkington	Cllr Quinn	Tree Planting
13. Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Morris	Clean Air
14. Cllr Tegolo	Cllr Cummins	Accommodation for Asylum Seeker
15. Cllr Vernon	Cllr O'Brien	Free Bus Travel
16. Cllr Harris	Cllr Quinn	Road safety in Church Ward
17. Cllr McBriar	Cllr Tariq	Ofsted Action Plan
18. Cllr Caserta	Cllr Gold	CCTV cameras
19. Cllr Tegolo	Cllr Quinn	Electric Charging Points
20. Cllr Powell	Cllr Quinn	Phillips Park Hall
21. Cllr S Wright	Cllr Quinn	No idling zones
22. Cllr Powell	Cllr Gold	CCTV in Prestwich

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 9 to 22 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

b) Verbal Questions

Questioner	Cabinet Member/ Committee Chair	Topic
Cllr N Jones	Cllr Quinn	Clean Air Zone
Cllr M Powell	Cllr Simpson	Ambulance Waiting Times
Cllr M Smith	Cllr Tariq	Free Travel for Students
Cllr Staple Jones	Cllr Tariq	Staffing in the SEND Team
Cllr Morris	Cllr O'Brien	Bury Master Plan

Cllr Gartside	Cllr O'Brien	Green Belt Petition
Cllr Hayes	Cllr Quinn	Green Spaces
Cllr Dean	Cllr S Wright	Ofsted Scrutiny
Cllr Tegolo	Cllr Quinn	Clean Air

C.XXX COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

(a) The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities.

(b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Pressure on the Courts System	Cllr Hayes	Councillor Gold (Representative on Police and Crime and Panel)
2.	CRSTS Programme	Cllr Farooq	Councillor Peel (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
3.	GM Fire Service	Cllr Bernstein	Councillor Gold (Representative on Police and Crime and Panel)
4.	BSIP Allocation	Cllr McGill	Councillor Peel (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
5.	Catalytic Converters	Cllr Lewis	Councillor Gold (Representative on Police and Crime and Panel)
6.	Metrolink Fares	Cllr Powell	Councillor Peel (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
7.	Clean Air	Cllr Brown	Councillor Quinn
8.	High Raise Buildings	Cllr Tegolo	Councillor Gold (Representative on Police and Crime and Panel)
9.	Fossil Fuels	Cllr S Wright	Councillor Grimshaw (Representative on Pensions Authority)

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 8 and 9 inclusive, the Mayor gave an undertaking that copies of the questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors and made available on the Council Web Site.

C.XXX NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) OFSTED Report

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Bernstein, Brown, Caserta, Cropper, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Hurst, Hussain, N Jones, Lewis, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon, Y Wright

The Council received a report from OFSTED on Friday 17th December 2021 following an inspection of Children's Services between 25 October 2021 to 5 November 2021.

This Council is deeply concerned with the recent OFSTED report and notes that children are at risk in our borough now.

This Council notes:-

- The Conservative Group in December 2021 requested an Emergency Council Meeting to be held before New Year (2022) due to the reported risk to Children in Bury as it believed it was of upmost importance to address the report quickly.
- The Mayor of Bury passed the emergency request to the Chief Executive of Bury Council to consider the contents of the report published 17th December 2021 prepared by HM Inspector, Lorna Schlechte attached to this motion.
- The Council is required to submit an improvement plan to the Department for Education before 31 March 2022.

This Council resolves to:-

- Call on the Chief Executive to schedule briefings each week with Leaders of Political Groups to update on the progress.
- Conduct an urgent review of all cases to identify risk and ensure, as per the OFSTED report that they are not over-optimistic in their analysis.
- Instruct the Chief Executive and the relevant Executive Director to bring a report on the progress of the programme and updated risk register to the monthly Cabinet and ordinary Council meetings.
- Implement an Improvement Plan with progress of implementation to be monitored by the Council's Children's Scrutiny Committee as a standing agenda item until the completion of all actions.

On being put, with 43 voting for, 0 members voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(ii)TACKLING FUEL POVERTY

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Councillors: M Powell, C Tegolo and S Wright

Council notes that:

Research from Friends of the Earth shows that 13% of households in Bury are living in fuel poverty – and heating homes accounts for 44% of local carbon emissions.

Rising energy prices will make this significantly worse, and the National Energy Action charity has warned that rising household energy bills could cause at least 2 million more homes to slip into fuel poverty

All housing in our borough should be insulated to a minimum of EPC C standard with good quality loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, double-glazing and draught exclusion.

The Government have set a target to upgrade all housing to the above standard by 2030. To meet this target a total of 5,859 homes in Bury would need insulation upgrades each year.

The scale of this challenge is significant but at the same time we must make a commitment to end fuel poverty and excess carbon emissions from poorly insulated homes and develop a strategy to achieve this goal.

Council therefore commits to:

- 1 Ensure that we are doing what we can as an Authority to provide advice and support to residents struggling through fuel poverty, and specifically ask for the appropriate Cabinet Member to bring a report to meetings of the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the next two months providing an update on the support the Council and its partners are able to offer.
- 2 Strengthen its procedures to enforce minimum standards of energy efficiency in the private rented sector – making sure landlords without an EPC certificate for their properties are fined, and properties with an inadequate EPC rating are prevented from being rented.
- 3 Publish a statement of intent and set locally appropriate eligibility criteria to access Energy Company Obligation funding via Local Authority

Flexibility arrangements – allowing more vulnerable and low-income households in our area to access funding to better insulate their homes.

4 Ensure new housing is built to the highest possible energy efficiency standards through reviewing Local Plan policies and introducing additional Supplementary Planning Guidance to ensure the use of low-carbon materials, heat pumps rather than gas heating systems, and renewable energy as much as possible.

5 Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking that the Government adopt the recommendations relating to retrofitting homes and buildings in the Blueprint for a Green Recovery report published in January 2021.

6 Request the appropriate Cabinet Members to bring a report on these wider issues to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within the next twelve months.

On being put, with 28 voting for, the Conservative Group, and the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(iii) SAVE OUR DEBT ADVICE SERVICES

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Councillors C Boles, N Boroda, S Butler, C Cummins, U Farooq, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, M Hayes, T Holt, K Leach, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson, L Smith, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley, C Walsh and M Whitby.

The council recognises:

The challenging financial situation many residents find themselves in as a result of cuts to Universal Credit and the rising costs of food, fuel and energy.

The increasing number of residents struggling with debt due to these financial pressures - Citizens Advice Bury & Bolton dealt with over 4,000 debt enquiries during 2021.

The importance of free, impartial, local debt advice services to support residents to manage their debts and get back on track.

The council notes:

The procurement process that was being undertaken by the Government's Money and Pensions Service to commission debt advice services beyond April 2022.

The loss of £3 million for debt advice services in the North under the Government's plan.

The switch in emphasis so that two thirds of future funding would be directed to remote telephone and webchat advice services and the proposed cut of 50-60% of face-to-face debt advice.

The inaccessibility of remote services for some, including the most vulnerable clients, and the risk of a postcode lottery of support which this creates.

The vital importance of local debt advisers with relationships with councils, housing providers, foodbanks etc. and the importance of retaining this face-to-face advice and support in our local area.

The pause of the procurement process shortly before Christmas in the face of growing concern about the proposals and the continuation of funding for existing services for just 6 months beyond April.

The lack of any commitment from the Government to address the concerns raised.

The council resolves to:

Support the calls by Advice UK, the Institute of Money Advisers, the Law Centres Network, the We Are Debt Advisers campaign, the Unite Debt Advice Network and Greater Manchester Money Advice Group, among others, for the Government to:

- Scrap the current procurement process entirely
- Extend funding for 12 months for existing services to enable them to plan properly and retain staff
- Re-examine the process and the evidence for the cut in face-to-face advice services, including the impact the proposed changes will have on the most vulnerable clients
- Re-balance the funding so the North doesn't lose out

Write to the Chief Executive of the Money and Pensions Service and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to make clear our support for the above and the continuation of face-to-face debt advice services in Bury.

On being put, with 28 voting for, 15 voting against, and the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

C.XXX COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER

The Motion Tracker was circulated for information.

C.XXX SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items "called in" by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered at this Council meeting.

Council, 19 January 2022

C.XXX QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTE: The meeting started at 7pm and finished at 10.25pm)